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Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 18
Economic and social development in Western Asia

Contents

		Page
Overall orientation		2
Subprogramme 1.	Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development	4
Subprogramme 2.	Integrated social policies	6
Subprogramme 3.	Economic development and integration	7
Subprogramme 4.	Information and communication technology for regional integration	9
Subprogramme 5.	Statistics for evidence-based policymaking	11
Subprogramme 6.	Advancement of women	12
Subprogramme 7.	Conflict mitigation and development	14
Legislative mandates		15

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Overall orientation

18.1 The objective of the programme is to promote economic and social development policies and programmes in Western Asia that are consistent and coherent with the commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is responsible for the implementation of the programme.

18.2 The programme is guided by the mandates of the Commission and its subsidiary legislative bodies within the overarching mandates of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. ESCWA benefited from the priority and programme review of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and the mandate review, which were carried out as part of the United Nations reform called for in the 2005 World Summit.

18.3 Political instability and the lack of adequate structural reforms influence economic performance in the countries of the region. While recent hikes in international energy prices have brought a surge of economic boom in most energy exporting countries of the region, other countries continue to face difficulties in mobilizing domestic and foreign direct investment. The region is in need of economic and social policies that ensure social justice and equitable distribution of wealth. Good governance is a prerequisite for the success of economic and social reforms. The prevalence of technology in the region, especially information and communication technologies — a powerful enabler of development — remains below the international average.

18.4 Furthermore, the region has the second highest population growth in the world, following Africa, creating increasing demand for food, water and energy, and adequate infrastructure to provide basic shelter, education, health care and other social services and productive employment opportunities. This requires the countries of the region to coordinate efforts and mobilize more resources for the provision of region al public goods, including water management, environmental vulnerability, the social safety net and coordination and harmonization in trade policies and procedures, transport infrastructure and conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

18.5 The countries of the region also continue to experience some of the highest unemployment rates in the world, especially among the youth. Migration, both towards and away from ESCWA countries, is a regional issue that needs to be addressed within the framework of international human rights treaties, taking into account regional economic considerations. Women do not yet fully gain equal rights and opportunities to economic and political participation, although the region achieved general success in making the secondary and tertiary education systems far more accessible to both sexes equally. Among the vulnerable groups, those who suffer most live in the least developed and conflict-stricken countries of the region.

18.6 There persists a strong need to improve the institutional capacity to produce timely, reliable and comparable statistics for policy and programme formulation and for monitoring the progress made towards the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Regular

monitoring of the effects of conflict on economic and social development in the region is increasingly becoming important.

18.7 For the biennium 2008-2009, ESCWA will pursue the programme objective by promoting economic and social integration at the subregional and regional levels and fostering solidarity in the international political arena and global economy. Such regional integration could be scaled up to cover the Arab region through strategic partnerships with subregional and regional organizations, especially the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The programme will focus on the four regional priority areas: (a) managing water and energy, (b) promoting integrated social policies, (c) stimulating economic development and integration in the increasingly globalizing world, and (d) accelerating the introduction and development of technology, especially information and communication technology. Throughout the programme, the emphasis will be placed on the effective participation and involvement of women and their advancement, special consideration for the people living in conflict-stricken countries and statistical capacity development.

18.8 ESCWA will carry out analytical and normative work, building on its accumulated knowledge and multidisciplinary expertise, which will be supported by the provision of technical cooperation. It will also facilitate multilateral dialogue, knowledge-sharing and networking on the outcome of the Commission's work and the national, regional and global development issues. In addition, ESCWA will provide a regional platform for the member countries to formulate and implement regional initiatives, agreements and programmes.

18.9 It is expected that regional support provided by ESCWA will contribute towards: (a) increased national capacity to formulate and implement economic and social policies and programmes that are pro-poor and inclusive, and to tackle transboundary issues; (b) provision of joint responses to address multifaceted problems encountered by the countries in the region through the coordinated efforts and consolidated resources of the United Nations entities; (c) enhanced work of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions for the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields; and (d) increased knowledge-sharing and South-South cooperation among the countries in the region and with countries in other regions, thereby promoting regional and interregional cooperation.

18.10 The programme will be harmonized through regular interaction with the other entities of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and the entities of the United Nations Development Group. The latter will be achieved through the Regional Coordination Group, which is led by ESCWA. ESCWA will enhance its collaboration with the subregional office for North Africa of the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure synergies in thematic and operational work and to bring its expertise to the countries in the North African subregion, which share common language and cultural values.

18.11 For the period 2008-2009, subprogrammes 3 and 4 are proposed to be merged into one subprogramme. An internal review carried out in December 2005 demonstrated that many mandates were common to both subprogrammes. Hence, issues of economic growth and development and financing for development issues, including the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, which have been dealt

with by two subprogrammes in the past few years, are proposed to become the responsibility of subprogramme 3, Economic development and integration, to complement and increase synergy. Consolidating the two subprogrammes will also facilitate the strategic repositioning of economic analysis work with a view to making it more objective-oriented, that is, geared to achieving sustained high growth, employment creation and/or poverty alleviation, on the one hand, and creating space for operationalizing findings, conclusions and recommendations of studies and meetings into policy advice and capacity development, on the other.

18.12 Furthermore, a new subprogramme 7 is proposed on conflict mitigation and development that will address the impact of the persistent instability and conflict on economic and social development in Western Asia, which affects not only the countries concerned but also neighbouring countries and the region as a whole. The subprogramme aims to give concrete expression to the interlinkages between peace and security, development and human rights, in accordance with the 2005 World Summit Outcome and relevant ESCWA resolutions. The subprogramme focuses on pursuing sustainable development goals in a context of tension and insecurity to address the increasing poverty levels and the deteriorating quality of life in the afflicted areas. It will also increase understanding of the causes of conflict and instability to enable the countries to take appropriate measures to reduce their vulnerability, strengthen advocacy and capacity-building on issues of good governance and promote the replication of good practices.

Subprogramme 1
Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development

Objective of the Organization: to improve the sustainable management of natural resources in the region, with particular emphasis on water, energy and the production sectors, taking into account environmental considerations

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced capacity of member countries to formulate, adopt and implement policies and measures to improve the sustainable management of natural resources, with particular emphasis on the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals	(a) (i) Increased number of policies and measures adopted by member countries of the region for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (goals 1 and 7) (ii) Increased number of member countries developing, adopting and/or implementing policies and measures to improve the sustainable management of energy and water resources
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to apply best practices and methods for improving sustainable rural development and increasing competitiveness of the small and medium enterprises using environmentally sound technology	(b) (i) Increased number of member countries applying best practices and methods to promote sustainable rural development

	(ii) Increased number of measures and best practices or initiatives adopted to enhance the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises using environmentally sound technology
(c) Improved regional and interregional cooperation among member countries on energy and water issues, including the prevention of water and environment-related disputes	(c) (i) Increased number of member countries requesting ESCWA to enhance their negotiation skills for the joint management of shared water resources
	(ii) Increased number of regional/interregional projects and actions undertaken by member countries through regional cooperation mechanisms on water and energy

Strategy

18.13 The responsibility for implementing this subprogramme lies with the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division. The subprogramme will concentrate on facilitating the formulation and implementation of sustainable development strategies, policies and programmes in light of the relevant global mandates arising from the 2005 World Summit, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals, particularly goal 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and goal 7 (ensure environmental sustainability), including improved access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation to a wider section of the region's population. The subprogramme will continue to advocate sustainable production and consumption patterns of water and energy resources and serve as a forum for promoting policy dialogue as a means to enhance synergy among the countries of the region on sustainable development priority issues; facilitate regional cooperation, in particular in the management of shared water resources and the development of energy networks, and enhance negotiation skills to prevent water and environment-related disputes; support national and regional capacity-building, especially in the field of integrated management of water resources, energy efficiency, renewable energy and technology applications; and assist member countries in building capacity for sustainable rural development.

18.14 This will be achieved by undertaking research and analytical studies, convening meetings and seminars, disseminating best practices and building capacity through workshops and advisory services on priority sustainable development issues related to water, energy, the environment and the production sectors.

18.15 The subprogramme will also further develop its partnership with LAS, promote the existing ESCWA regional mechanisms on energy and water, facilitate the establishment of coordination mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on environmental issues and assist member States to strengthen the capacity of small and medium enterprises to take advantage of new management practices and the harnessing of technologies that can enhance their competitiveness and productivity in a sustainable manner.

Subprogramme 2
Integrated social policies

Objective of the Organization: to strengthen national capacity to achieve inclusive, equitable and sustainable social development in a globalized environment

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened capacity of member countries to promote and formulate integrated social development policies to achieve social equity, poverty reduction and sustainable population	(a) (i) Increased number of government offices/civil society organizations that initiated, with ESCWA assistance, advocacy and awareness-raising activities to promote the development of integrated social development policies (ii) Increased number of member countries that initiated, with ESCWA assistance, the formulation of integrated social development policies (iii) Increased number of sectoral development policies, plans and/or programmes initiated with ESCWA assistance, with special emphasis on youth and migration
(b) Increased capacity of member countries to develop and operationalize intersectoral social development plans, programmes and/or projects that address the specific needs of vulnerable groups, including youth, migrant workers, persons with disabilities and the rural and urban poor	(b) Increased number of intersectoral social development plans, programmes and/or projects that target capacity-building in response to the needs of vulnerable groups, with ESCWA assistance

Strategy

18.16 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Social Development Division. The subprogramme provides a neutral forum for promoting policy dialogue, networking and replication of best practices among the member countries.

18.17 It will continue to advocate and enhance the capacity of member countries to formulate coherent and integrated social policies, including appropriate population and migration policies and national urban policies and policies that target vulnerable groups, particularly the youth. The subprogramme will assist member countries in the implementation of the plans of action of the relevant global conferences, with a focus on the Millennium Development Goals.

18.18 Increased attention will be focused in 2008-2009 on intersectoral social development programmes and projects that address the specific needs of vulnerable groups, such as the youth, migrant workers, persons with disabilities and the rural and urban poor, to enable the region to benefit from their huge potential and move towards greater social equity.

18.19 To achieve the expected accomplishments, the subprogramme will undertake analytical work, conduct meetings and carry out technical cooperation activities, including training workshops and programmes, field projects and advisory services on priority social issues. It will promote and advocate partnerships between stakeholders, especially at the local and national levels, to enhance the participatory approach, in order to draw suitable social policies that take into consideration the needs and requirements of all segments of the population. This approach has proved to increase the chances of success of such policies.

18.20 Partnership will be forged with other related United Nations organizations, such as the United Nations Population Fund, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, with regional organizations, such as LAS and its relevant subsidiary bodies, and with civil society, including local communities and non-governmental organizations.

Subprogramme 3
Economic development and integration

Objective of the Organization: to strengthen the capacity of member countries to design and implement sound economic policies and strategies for sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation and for regional integration in a globalizing world

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased knowledge among stakeholders in the region of the issues that should be taken into account in designing and implementing suitable macroeconomic policies and strategies for sustainable economic growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation in line with the Millennium Development Goals	(a) (i) Increased number of stakeholders in the region acknowledging that they benefited from ESCWA macroeconomic analysis, policy recommendations and forecasts (ii) Increased number of requests for technical assistance to promote and implement macroeconomic policy and financing for development measures, based on ESCWA work
(b) Enhanced capacity of the member countries to negotiate and implement subregional, regional and multilateral trade and investment agreements designed to promote interregional and intraregional trade and investment flows	(b) (i) Increased number of member countries accepting and/or adopting trade negotiation proposals and facilitation schemes/measures suggested by ESCWA (ii) Increased number of member countries negotiating and implementing trade agreements designed to promote interregional and intraregional trade flows with ESCWA support

		(iii) Increased number of member countries negotiating and implementing investment agreements designed to promote interregional and intraregional investment flows as well as integrating the Monterrey Consensus into their economic strategies and policies, with ESCWA support
(c) Strengthened capacity of member countries to formulate and implement policies and programmes for improving transport infrastructure and logistics within the framework of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq (ITSAM)	(c)	(i) Percentage of the length of the ITSAM road network that meets the requirements of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq (ii) Increased number of policy measures adopted by member countries in relation to the implementation of ITSAM

Strategy

18.21 The responsibility for implementing this subprogramme lies with the Economic Development and Integration Division. The Millennium Development Goals, the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development and relevant General Assembly and ESCWA resolutions, and the Doha Development Agenda provide the legislative authority for the subprogramme.

18.22 With economic growth in the region closely tied to the performance of the oil sector and characterized by big fluctuations and low trickle-down effects to the rest of the economy as well as the low absorption of labour, the subprogramme will address issues of economic diversification in relation to growth-fostering policies. Hence, it will focus on providing in-depth analyses, including on the social impact of economic development, and disseminate forecasts of economic growth to assist the member countries to adopt corrective policies for more balanced socio-economic development and growth and for achieving the relevant Millennium Development Goals in the region.

18.23 The subprogramme provides the forum for member countries to discuss key regional issues and reach common understanding. It will continue to advocate the need for strengthening regional economic cooperation and integration as the means of widening the regional market to increase competitiveness, reduce risks and uncertainties and facilitate integration in the global economy.

18.24 Support will be provided to the member countries in implementing the recommendations of the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development, with emphasis on an integrated approach, and work towards achieving the goals of the Consensus. This includes increasing the capacity of member countries to formulate and implement appropriate domestic resource mobilization strategies, sound investment policies, improved foreign-debt management schemes and more effective trade policies.

18.25 The need is evident to enhance the region's capacity to formulate and implement trade policies in a coherent manner, ensuring that development is incorporated into the trade agenda. This would necessitate building the capacities of

trade officials involved in trade negotiations and trade facilitation measures, in particular through information and communication technology applications.

18.26 ESCWA will also continue its pioneering work on ITSAM, including the implementation and monitoring of the international transport agreements and the harmonization and simplification of border-crossing and transit procedures. Moreover, an action plan on road safety in member countries will be developed.

18.27 The subprogramme will achieve its expected accomplishments through analytical studies, expert group meetings and technical cooperation activities, comprising capacity-building workshops, advisory services, networking and knowledge-sharing as well as field projects. Attention will be provided to outreach and to increase the interaction between officials in the region through networking arrangements that would facilitate the exchange of experiences and lessons learned and enhance dialogue.

18.28 This will be achieved by further strengthening partnership with relevant United Nations organizations such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the other regional commissions, as well as regional organizations, mainly LAS and GCC and their subsidiary bodies. Close cooperation with non-governmental organizations, chambers of commerce and other relevant private sector enterprises will also be pursued.

Subprogramme 4
Information and communication technology for regional integration

Objective of the Organization: To build an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society in accordance with internationally agreed development goals and objectives.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society, particularly in relation to the information and communication technology sector	(a) (i) Increased number of member countries implementing policies and plans of action to enhance the information and communication technology sector
	(ii) Increased number of core information and communication technology indicators measured by all member countries
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to provide e-services in Arabic targeting socio-economic development	(b) (i) Increased number of information and communication technology applications deployed by member countries to provide e-services with ESCWA assistance
	(ii) Increased number of information and communication technology field projects initiated or promoted by ESCWA that target government services and local community development

Strategy

18.29 The responsibility for implementing this subprogramme lies with the Information and Communication Technology Division. In follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society Tunis Agenda for the Information Society and the efforts made in implementing the ESCWA Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society, the subprogramme will strive to adapt the Tunis Agenda to better serve the region and fine-tune plans of action to build an inclusive, people-centred information society based on productive national information and communication technology sectors.

18.30 The subprogramme will carry out analytical studies, convene meetings and provide advisory services to support this endeavour and act as a catalyst for the member countries to trigger changes in policymaking and continue to develop a comprehensive set of information and communication technology indicators that would help strategic decision-making in identifying priority areas of policy action. It will also assess and revise plans of action, monitor progress, evaluate impacts and benchmark national development with other countries, with a view to improving the productivity and competitiveness of the information and communication technology sector in the region.

18.31 To enhance national capacity and to take advantage of the digital opportunities pertaining to socio-economic development in the region, pilot field projects will be implemented in selected ESCWA member countries. To build a people-centred information society, field projects will incorporate a social dimension through the active involvement of local communities, with a focus on youth employment and empowerment of women.

18.32 The subprogramme will also place special emphasis on harnessing the development of information and communication technology thematic applications, such as e-government and digital Arabic content, with the aim of building on information and communication technology as an agent of change to empower citizens and improve their quality of life.

18.33 Leveraging on previous years' accomplishments for activating partnerships for implementing information and communication technology projects, the subprogramme will enhance regional collaboration and partnerships in activities leading to an inclusive, people-centred information society and contribute to fund-raising efforts aimed at harnessing information and communication technology for socio-economic development. To this end, it will promote the establishment of mechanisms to exchange information and share knowledge among regional players and those outside the region. The subprogramme will also seek close coordination and joint efforts with the other ESCWA subprogrammes and with international/regional organizations for more effective results.

Subprogramme 5
Statistics for evidence-based policymaking

Objective of the Organization: To enhance the capacity of member countries to produce and disseminate timely, accurate and comparable socio-economic statistics and indicators to be used by national and international decision makers and civil society for evidence-based policymaking.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened capacity of member countries to improve the national institutional framework for official statistics	(a) (i) Increased number of member countries taking measures to improve their national institutional framework for official statistics (ii) Increased number of member countries committing to implement the United Nations Statistical Commission's Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
(b) Strengthened capacity of member countries to participate effectively in the 2010 round of population censuses, household surveys and other surveys as a statistical requisite for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015	(b) (i) Increased number of member countries taking concrete measures with ESCWA assistance to participate effectively in the 2010 round (ii) Increased number of member countries that provide the ESCWA repository of data with at least 60 per cent of the core set of development indicators, including the Millennium Development Goals and gender dimension

Strategy

18.34 The responsibility for implementing a subprogramme lies with the Statistics Division. The subprogramme plays a central role in promoting international statistical standards and providing a regional statistical forum. It aims at strengthening the capacity of the national statistical systems of the region to produce and disseminate, in a timely manner and in keeping with international standards and best practices, the statistical information and development indicators needed to design and monitor evidence-based economic and social policies for national decision makers and civil society.

18.35 The subprogramme will focus on strengthening statistical systems in the member countries in order to harmonize with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. This will be done by monitoring the implementation and adherence to those principles, promoting and providing support to formulate national statistical development strategies to improve national statistical institutional frameworks and achieve national development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

18.36 Recognizing that the period 2008-2009 will be crucial for the member Governments to prepare for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, the subprogramme will give special focus to the capacity-building of member countries in implementing the recommendations for the 2010 round as well as their capacity in preparing and undertaking household, labour force and other related surveys to collect vital data needed for the policymakers and government officials, and for the private sector and civil society. The subprogramme will also continue to focus due attention on the 1993 System of National Accounts and trade and sectoral statistics, and support the member countries in improving existing gaps in the coverage, transparency and quality of statistics and metadata in compliance with agreed international standards.

18.37 The objective of the subprogramme will be achieved through the organization of meetings and workshops, networking and knowledge-sharing, implementing technical cooperation projects and providing advisory services and expertise to the national statistical offices, in particular where ESCWA has an added value in reflecting the specificity of the region. Greater effort will be made to increase the added-value in its statistical publications by increased use of estimation to fill gaps in statistics and improve their quality.

18.38 The subprogramme will implement its work in partnership with the Statistical Division in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and other regional commissions, regional organizations such as LAS and GCC, as well as other statistical departments through joint meetings, publications, data compilation and sharing to ensure coherence and exploit synergy at the regional and national levels.

Subprogramme 6
Advancement of women

Objective of the Organization: To foster greater participation of women in public life for equality between women and men by contributing to reducing gender imbalances and empowering women.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
Strengthened capacity of national mechanisms and civil society institutions for the empowerment and advancement of women to address gender imbalances and mainstream a gender perspective, with special emphasis on the participation of women in legislative and executive authorities	(i) Increased number of member countries applying policy options for the empowerment and advancement of women (ii) Increased number of measures taken by member countries to increase the participation of women in policy and decision-making

Strategy

18.39 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the ESCWA Centre for Women. Taking into account the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Beijing + 10 and its Platform for Action and the Beirut Declaration on Arab Women Ten Years after Beijing: Call for Peace, adopted by the twenty-third session of the Commission, the subprogramme will focus on

policy advocacy and capacity-building for increasing the number of women in parliament and at the executive level, as a means for enhancing the ratio of women in decision-making positions. This has proved to be a useful interim measure for addressing gender-related issues more effectively in a number of countries. Greater attention will be focused on promoting partnerships between Governments and grass-roots organizations to increase outreach and to sustain follow-up action, evaluation and promotion of issues relating to the empowerment of women, women's rights and gender mainstreaming. This would include harnessing various media tools to raise awareness of the rights of women in the region and to rectify the flawed perception that distorts their image.

18.40 The subprogramme will synergize its work on the regional components of the programme of work, such as building consensus, promoting common regional positions vis-à-vis international agendas and undertaking joint activities with relevant regional organizations, chiefly LAS and its subsidiary bodies, namely the Arab Women Organization, which works under its auspices, and the Center for Arab Women Training and Research, and with United Nations organizations, especially the Division for the Advancement of Women in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, other regional commissions and the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

18.41 Based on the new mandates addressing the issue of women in conflict areas and their role in building peace and making peace, and building on previous successful, though limited, endeavours to support women in war-stricken and conflict areas, the subprogramme will focus due attention on identifying the needs of these women and building their capacity. This issue commands special attention in the ESCWA region, which is characterized by instability.

18.42 The subprogramme will achieve its expected accomplishments through its normative and analytical work, the holding of meetings, networking and knowledge-sharing, training workshops and the provision of advisory services on the empowerment of women and gender-related issues. It will also support member countries in bridging the gap between their commitments to international conventions and conferences and the realization thereof, which is often constrained by the absence or inadequacy of existing institutional mechanisms, laws and practices. To this end, the subprogramme will facilitate networking among Governments and among civil society institutions, and between them through the sharing and replication of good practices. It will also provide a forum for the exchange of experiences and the replication of good practices at the regional and international levels.

Subprogramme 7
Conflict mitigation and development

Objective of the Organization: To reduce the impact of conflict and instability on socio-economic and political development in Western Asia.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased understanding by member countries of the impact of conflict on socio-economic development in the region	(a) Increased number of public and civic entities that acknowledge benefiting from ESCWA work in identifying the socio-economic and political causes of instability and conflict
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to identify, assess, predict and respond to socio-economic and political issues and challenges posed by conflict and instability in the region	(b) (i) Increased number of tools and techniques adopted in assessing the root causes of conflict and instability (ii) Increased number of public and civic entities implementing, in partnerships with ESCWA and other entities, projects/programmes that address the socio-economic and political issues and challenges arising from conflict and instability

Strategy

18.43 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Conflict Mitigation and Development Section. To achieve its objective and expected accomplishments, the subprogramme will focus on the following four areas:

(a) *Analyses and policy formulation for conflict mitigation*. The subprogramme will monitor and analyse socio-economic and political events with a view to providing mitigation measures and deepening the understanding of the repercussions of crises and the impact of instability on socio-economic growth in the region. It will also formulate mechanisms to assist in reducing instability in Western Asia and disseminate lessons learned.

(b) *Capacity-building*. A key part of the strategy will be the improvement of good governance practices, such as improving the quality and effectiveness of public administration, human rights, rule of law and economic decision-making. Such policy recommendations will be supported by training and capacity-building for public and civic bodies to induce policy reform in accordance with international standards of excellence.

(c) *Mainstreaming conflict prevention*. The subprogramme will be a catalyst in incorporating the socio-economic development needs of conflict-stricken countries into the work of substantive divisions to formulate/implement policies and programmes that cater to the needs of these countries and attempt to reduce the destabilizing regional impact of conflicts.

(d) *Forging partnerships*. The development of partnerships to help member countries achieve national development targets will be another key component of the strategy. Based on past experience, partnerships operate at several levels, bringing together members of civil society, the private sector, government institutions and United Nations and international organizations operating in the region. Through strengthened partnerships, the subprogramme will be able to mobilize resources to support peacebuilding efforts in the region.

18.44 The subprogramme will work closely with the newly established Human Rights Council, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and the Peacebuilding Support Office.

Legislative mandates

General mandates

General Assembly resolutions

55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
57/144	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
57/270 A and B	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
58/220	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries
59/9	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference
59/9	Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States
59/244	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
59/250	Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
60/157	The right to development
60/204	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
60/212	South-South cooperation
60/215	Towards global partnerships

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2004/48	Coordinated and integrated United Nations system approach to promoting rural development in developing countries, with due consideration to least developed countries, for poverty eradication and sustainable development
2004/65	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
2005/12	The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States
2005/31	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2005/48	Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits
2005/50	The Damascus Declaration and the role of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

258 (XXIII)	Strengthening technical cooperation in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
260 (XXIII)	Development and regional cooperation under unstable conditions
261 (XXIII)	Strengthening the cooperation between ESCWA and the League of Arab States in the field of Economic and Social Development
263 (XXIII)	Promoting partnership and resource mobilization
268 (XXIII)	Adoption of the Final Reports of the Subsidiary Bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Subprogramme 1
Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development

General Assembly resolutions

59/227	Implementation of Agenda 21, the programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
59/228	Activities undertaken during the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, preparations for the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources

59/235 Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

244 (XXII) Cooperation between ESCWA member countries with respect to shared water resources and the Arab networks for the integrated management of water resources

255 (XXIII) The establishment of a regional mechanism for building capacities to manage shared water resources

Subprogramme 2
Integrated social policies

General Assembly resolutions

60/2 Policies and programmes involving youth

60/130 Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

60/131 Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities

60/133 Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

60/135 Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

60/203 Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

60/227 International migration and development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2005/9 Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights

2005/10 Comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities

2005/11 Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

2005/47 Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

259 (XXIII) Social policies

Subprogramme 3
Economic development and integration

General Assembly resolutions

59/57 A fair globalization: creating opportunities for all — report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization

59/223 External debt crisis and development

60/5 Improving global road safety

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2004/64 International Conference on Financing for Development

2005/44 Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least-Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

243 (XXIII) Adoption of the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq

256 (XXIII) Adoption of the memorandum of understanding on maritime transport cooperation in the Arab Mashreq

257 (XXIII) Selection of the routes to be given priority in implementation of the agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq

265 (XXIII) Regional cooperation in the field of road traffic safety

Subprogramme 4
Information and communication technology for regional integration

General Assembly resolutions

59/220 World Summit on the Information Society

60/205 Science and technology for development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2004/68 Science and technology for development

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

245 (XXIII) The ESCWA initiative for activating the role of science, technology and technological innovation in achieving the Millennium Goals

Subprogramme 5
Statistics for evidence-based policymaking

General Assembly resolutions

60/2 Policies and programmes involving youth

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2005/13 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

247 (XXII) The development of statistical work in the ESCWA region

282 (XXIII) Support for the capacities for member countries in the field of statistics and the International Comparison Programme

Subprogramme 6
Advancement of women

General Assembly resolutions

59/167 Elimination of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

59/248 World Survey on the role of women in development

60/136 In-depth study on all forms of violence against women

60/138 Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

60/139 Violence against women migrant workers

60/140 Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

60/210 Women in development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2004/11 Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality

2004/12 Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding

2005/31 Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

2005/43 Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

264 (XXIII) Implementation of the Beirut Declaration on Arab Women Ten Years After Beijing: Call for Peace

Subprogramme 7
Conflict mitigation and development

General Assembly resolutions

59/179 The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

60/126 Assistance to the Palestinian people

60/183 Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the Occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2005/3 Public administration and development

2005/51 Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

Security Council resolutions

1645 (2005) Post-conflict peacebuilding

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

260 (XXIII) Development and regional cooperation under unstable conditions